FOI 3154

Date 04/07/2024

Dear Requester,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request. Please note, this is a cross-site response for Bedford site and Luton site.

You asked:

1. Are using PAs on the doctor rota?

No, they are based on the wards and their rota is different from that of doctors.

1. Are you using them on the doctor rota during the strikes ?
The PAs are continuing to work on their base wards. We had 2 locum PAS during last strike and they both worked on AAU in a supporting role.
2. Have you officially been through the BMA before you did this?
No
3. Have you told your patients that you are dropping standards in Bedford? I imagine you think your patients don’t deserve to know? If you have can you send me a copy of the comms to suggest this where you have informed patients that you are replacing doctors with lesser trained staff

We have not replaced doctors with PAs. They have worked their usual duties on their usual wards.

1. Do you think you are adhering to NHS Englands latest guidelines on PAs?

The question appears to be seeking a subjective opinion rather than a request for specific information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

We strive to align with NHS England's guidelines and best practices for Physician Associates. Our policies and procedures are regularly reviewed to ensure compliance with the latest standards.

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If you are not satisfied with the Trust review under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 you may apply directly to the Information Commissioners Officer (ICO) for a review of your appeal decision. The ICO can be contacted at: ICO, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF www.ico.org.uk

 Yours sincerely,

 *FOI Officer*

 Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust